



Federal Legislative Activities - Week of July 21, 2014

Please find a listing of federal legislative activities the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of July 21, 2014 below. This week, date to be determined, the Senate is expected to soon take up a House-passed bill ([HR 5021](#)) that would raise roughly \$11 billion to keep the Highway Trust Fund solvent through May 2015. The Department of Transportation estimates that Congress needs to act by Aug. 1 to prevent the trust fund from dropping below a sustainable level, cutting off funding in the middle of the summer construction season.

Congressional Hearings and Floor Activity

Tuesday, July 22nd

2 PM | Senate Veterans' Affairs Full Committee Confirmation Hearing – Veterans Affairs Nominations: Robert A. McDonald to be secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs

3 PM | House Energy and Commerce; Subcommittee on Health Hearing – Barriers in Health Communication

3 PM | Housing, Transportation, and Community Development Subcommittee of Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee hearing titled "Building Economically Resilient Communities: Local and Regional Approaches."

Wednesday, July 23rd

10 AM | Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Full Committee Hearing – Health, Income security Bills:

[S 2154](#) – Emergency Medical Services for Children Reauthorization Act – reauthorizes the act through 2019.

[S 2405](#) – Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act - Amends the Public Health Service Act to authorize appropriations for trauma care programs through FY2019. Requires that not more than 50% of amounts remaining for a fiscal year after FY2014 (after allocation for administrative purposes or for improvement of emergency medical services in rural areas) be allocated for competitive grants to support pilot projects for emergency care and trauma systems. Requires the inclusion of standards and requirements of the American Burn Association in trauma care modifications of a state plan for providing emergency medical services.

[S 2406](#) – Improving Trauma Care Act - Amends the Public Health Service Act, with respect to trauma care and research programs, to include in the definition of "trauma" an injury resulting from extrinsic agents other than mechanical force, including those that are thermal, electrical, chemical, or radioactive.

10 AM | House Transportation and Infrastructure; Subcommittee on Aviation – Domestic Aviation Manufacturing. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

10 AM | House Energy and Commerce; Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy Hearing – *Modernizing the Business of Environmental Regulation and Protection*. Click [here](#) to read the background memo.

2:30 PM | Senate Energy and Natural Resources; Subcommittee on National Parks Hearing – National Park System Legislation:

[S. 1750](#) – Would direct the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture (USDA), with respect to land under their respective jurisdictions, pursuant to a state or local government offer, to

enter into an agreement under which the United States may accept funds from the state or local government to reopen any unit of the National Park System, the National Wildlife Refuge System, or the National Forest System within the state or local government during any period in which there is a lapse in appropriations for that unit. Would make such authority effective only during a period in which the Secretary is unable to operate and manage covered units at normal levels and require the appropriate Secretary to refund to the state or local government all amounts it provided to the United States under such an agreement

3:30 PM | Senate Indian Affairs Committee - Oversight Hearing: *Indian Gaming: The Next 25 Years*. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

Wednesday, July 23rd and the balance of the week - On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 12 PM and 9 AM on Friday for legislative business.

Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules:

- [H.R. 4983](#) - Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Virginia Foxx / Education & the Workforce Committee) – would require colleges and universities that participate in federal student aid programs to provide more information to the public and requires the Education Department to establish a more robust comparison website that students and parents can use in deciding which college to attend.
- [H.R. 5111](#) - To Improve the Response to Victims of Child Sex Trafficking - This bill includes "child sex trafficking, including child prostitution," as an area of reporting to a tip line on Internet-related child sexual exploitation run by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The term replaces "child prostitution."
- [H.R. 5081](#) - Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act of 2014 - This bill would modify the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to incorporate efforts against human trafficking as part of the law, including by requiring that state plans for federal grants for child abuse or neglect prevention and treatment programs include elements focused on human trafficking.
- [H.R. 5076](#) - Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims of Youth Trafficking Act of 2014 - This bill amends the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to add human trafficking to the list of crimes to which runaway and homeless youth may be victims, and for which nonprofit private agencies may apply for federal grants to provide street-based services to these youth.
- [H.R. 4980](#) - The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act - This bill requires states to take steps to prevent, identify and address sex trafficking of youth in foster care, including by developing policies for assisting victims of sex trafficking. It also modifies foster care policies to improve the foster care experiences of children who may be at risk of falling victim to sex trafficking; establishes a National Advisory Committee on the sex trafficking of children and youth in the United States; reauthorizes the existing Adoption Incentives program through FY 2016, focuses more resources on increasing adoptions of older children; and amends the Social Security Act with the goal of more rigorous enforcement of child support payments, both domestically and internationally.
- [H.R. 5135](#) - The Human Trafficking Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery Act of 2014 - The bill would require the review to identify best practices and effective strategies to combat child trafficking and to identify current gaps in research and data that would be helpful in formulating effective strategies. Within one year of enactment, the task force is required to submit to Congress and make publicly available its report on the review
- [H.R. 5116](#) - To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to train Department of Homeland Security personnel how to effectively deter, detect, disrupt, and prevent human trafficking during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities, and for other purposes. If requested by state, local or tribal governments or private organizations, the department may provide such training material to these entities.
- [H.R. 4935](#) - Child Tax Credit Improvement Act of 2014, The bill makes permanent a modified child tax credit for taxpayers that eliminates the tax credit's "marriage penalty" by increasing the threshold at which the tax credit begins to phase out for married couples, and it indexes for inflation both the \$1,000 tax credit itself as well as the credit's income phase-out thresholds.

- [H.R. 3393](#) - Student and Family Tax Simplification Act - The bill modifies and makes permanent the American Opportunity Tax Credit first created by the 2009 stimulus law for qualified tuition and related expenses, indexing it for inflation beginning in 2019, and it repeals the Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning tax credits. Under the measure, the cost would not be offset, which would add almost \$97 billion to the deficit over 10 years.

Thursday, July 24th

9:30 AM | House Veterans' Affairs Full Committee Hearing – *Restoring Trust: The View of the Acting Secretary and the Veterans Community*

10 AM | House Transportation and Infrastructure; Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Hearing – *Integrated Planning and Permitting Framework: An Opportunity for EPA to Provide Communities with Flexibility to Make Smart Investments in Water Quality*. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

10 AM | House Ways and Means; Subcommittee on Health – Medicare Advantage Assessment

2 PM | House Natural Resources; Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation Hearing – Oversight of Federal Land Managing Agencies

2:30 PM | Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Subcommittee on Emergency Management Intergovernmental Relations – FEMA Disaster Operations

2:30 PM | House Agriculture; Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight and Nutrition Hearing – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Assessment. The hearing will examine the role of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in relation to other Federal assistance programs. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.